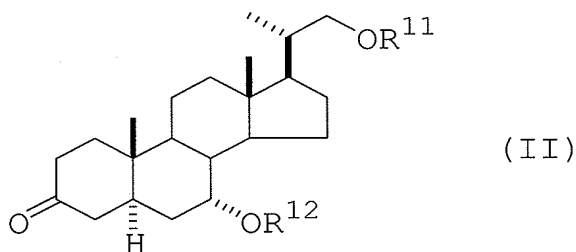


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

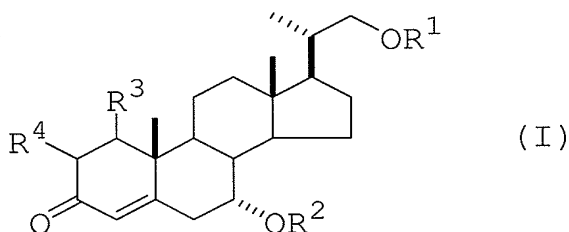
This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (II):



wherein R^{11} and R^{12} are each independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group,

which method comprises reacting a pregnane derivative represented by the formula (I):



wherein R^1 is a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, and R^3 and R^4 are each a hydrogen atom or in combination form a bond,

with a metal selected from the group consisting of alkali metals and alkaline earth metals in the presence of a proton donor and an amine and/or ammonia, wherein the metal is present in an amount of 0.7-2 times the amount necessary for reducing the carbon-carbon double bond of the compound represented by formula (I).

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R^2 and R^{12} are hydrogen atoms.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein R^3 and R^4 in combination form a bond.

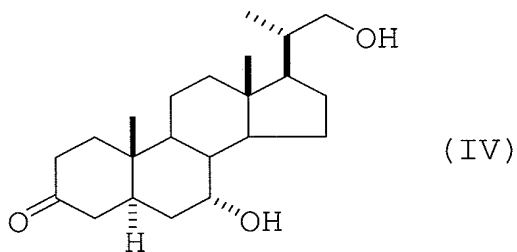
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein R^1 and R^{11} are tri-substituted silyl groups having three, same or different, substituents selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) and an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s).

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein R^1 and R^{11} are tert-butyldimethylsilyl groups.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the metal is an alkali metal.

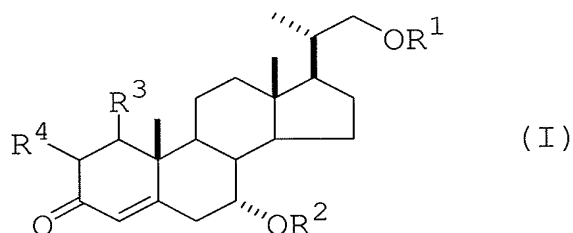
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for producing (20S)-7 α ,21-dihydroxy-20-methyl-5 α -pregn-3-one represented by the formula (IV):



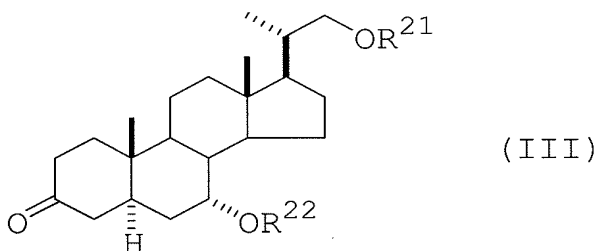
which method comprises the steps of

(a) reacting a pregnane derivative represented by the formula (I):



wherein R^1 is a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, and R^3 and R^4 are each a hydrogen atom or in combination form a bond,

with a metal selected from alkali metals and alkaline earth metals in the presence of a proton donor and an amine and/or ammonia, wherein the metal is present in an amount of 0.7-2 times the amount necessary for reducing the carbon-carbon double bond of the compound represented by formula (I), to give a 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (III):



wherein R^{21} is a hydroxyl-protecting group and R^{22} is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group; and

(b) eliminating the hydroxyl-protecting group of the 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (III) obtained by the aforementioned step.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein R^2 and R^{22} are hydrogen atoms.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein R^3 and R^4 in combination form a bond.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein R^1 and R^{21} are tri-substituted silyl groups having three, same or different, substituents selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxyl group optionally having substituent(s) and an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s).

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein R^1 and R^{21} are tert-butyldimethylsilyl groups.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein R^3 and R^4 in combination form a bond.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein R^1 and R^{11} are tri-substituted silyl groups having three, same or different, substituents selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxyl group optionally having substituent(s) and an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s).

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein R^1 and R^{11} are tert-butyldimethylsilyl groups.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein R^3 and R^4 in combination form a bond.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein R^1 and R^{21} are tri-substituted silyl groups having three, same or different, substituents selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxyl group optionally having substituent(s) and an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s).

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein R^1 and R^{21} are tert-butyldimethylsilyl groups.